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IRRIGATION PROJECTS LAG IN SIBERIA, TURKMEN SSR;
PROGRESS IN IZMAIL; RECEIVE NEW MACHINERY

SIBERIAN STEPPES LACK WATER, MECHANIZATION -- Izvestiye, No 278, 25 Nov 49

In the southern part of Western Siberia stretches a fertile chernozem plain, the Ishim, Pri-Irtysh, and Kulunda steppes of which are extremely valuable to Kurgan, Tyumen, Omsk, and Novosibirsk oblasts, and to Altay Kray.

Siberian kolkhozes, which are famous for being good grain producers, are encountering great difficulties. Many kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Omsk Oblast undergo hardships due to lack of water. The livestock sovkhozes of the Lyubinskiy group and the large grain sovkhozes in Novo-Ural'sk, in particular, have great difficulties in this respect. On kolkhozes in Pavlogradskiy, Odesskiy, Russko-Polyanskiy, and other rayons, livestock must be driven 4-5 kilometers in both winter and summer to watering places. During storms, the livestock are often left without water. Since water is necessary for raising the productivity of livestock, especially of dairy cattle, the lack of water greatly retards the possibility of obtaining additional tens of thousands of milk products.

The "Meliovodstroy" trusts are supposed to construct irrigation installations in kolkhozes. This work, however, is not progressing satisfactorily, since it is very expensive and there are not enough pipes for building wells. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that water will be found in these locations.

The Omsk Trust of "Meliovodstroy" actually does not have the pipes, machinery, or transportation necessary for this work. In addition, it lacks clearly defined leadership and planning, which is due in part to the inefficiency of the Ministry of Agriculture RSFSR. "Meliovodstroy" offices have no points for supplying such necessary materials and equipment as pipes, filters, hose, boring instruments, and tools; and "Sel'khozsnab" does not concern itself with this work. The Omsk Oblast MTS possesses large tractor parks, but "Meliovodstroy" does not have a single machine or bulldozer, nor does it have metal for preparing scrapers.

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The organization for supplying materials is no better in the Ministry of Sovkhozes. The construction of wells in sovkhozes is also proceeding unsatisfactorily, since many oblasts do not have special hydrotechnical offices.

Thus, since no one plans or organizes hydrogeological investigation of the steppe regions of Siberia, one may ask, Who is to conduct this work?

The means of supplying water in the steppe regions must be completely changed. It is time to investigate and collectivize the water resources in the trans-Ural steppes, to draw up a general scheme for the water economy in Western Siberia, and to select efficient types of water-supplying installations. First, the local branches of "Meliovodstroy" must be mechanized. Water-lifting equipment, especially windmills, must be produced locally in Siberia.

Prior to the war, Omsk Oblast had the largest number of operating windmills in the RSFSR. Now, many of them are no longer in operation and no arrangements have been made to supply the needed spare parts. The Ministry of Agriculture RSFSR does not have a special plant for producing windmills. The Omsk Repair Trust of the Oblast Agricultural Administration, however, is able to produce windmills. If the Omsk Repair Trust would adjust its production, it would greatly increase the general power output of kolkhozes. This would be of great aid in view of the lack of fuel and water resources in the steppe.

RECLAMATION, IRRIGATION PROJECTS LAG -- *Turkmenskaya Iskra*, No 163, 17 Aug 48

Irrigation projects will receive appropriations amounting to 34 percent of the total investments in Turkmen SSR. Kolkhozes must be fully equipped with hydroelectric installations by 1950, and 350 such installations must be established in 1948. Dredging is to be at least 80 percent mechanized, construction of irrigation projects 50 percent mechanized, and transport work 75 percent mechanized in 1948. Reconstruction of pumping stations and replacement of parts was scheduled for 1947 - 1948. Completion of the Chardzhou Excavator Plant was planned for 1949. All hydraulic excavators were to have been restored, and 30 excavating pumps were to have been built and put into operation.

Only 29 percent of the reclamation plan was completed in 1947 - 1948. In 1948 the plan for construction of irrigation projects in Mary Oblast and in Ashkhabad Oblast was completed only 4.4 percent and 20.9 percent, respectively. The 1948 plan for construction of the excavator plant was only 8.2 percent completed. Construction of the Kizykly-Bent Dam in Mary Oblast was interrupted in 1947. *Turkmenvodoproiz* [Turkmen Water Industry?] operated unsatisfactorily in the first quarter 1948. It carried out only 60 percent of its assignment. Construction of 24 excavating pumps was postponed from 1947 to 1948. In the first quarter 1948, only five of 13 excavating pumps were produced; by 1 July, 35.4 percent of the annual plan for production of excavating pumps and hydraulic excavators had been completed. Dredging operations were mechanized 35.5 percent in 1946 and 40 percent in 1947. Only five of 22 motors of mechanized irrigation pumping stations were replaced. Pumping equipment has not been replaced and there appeared to be no prospect of such replacement in 1948. -- N. Sapitskiy, chief, Agricultural Section, State Planning Commission Turkmen SSR.

DEVELOPMENT OF OASIS PROCEEDS -- *Pravda*, No 329, 25 Nov 49

Ashkhabad -- The soil expedition from the Turkmen branch of the Academy of Sciences USSR has returned from Murgab Oasis. Agronomists, soil scientists, geobotanists, and hydrogeologists explored huge areas of Mary Oblast for future use in cotton growing. One of several expeditions sent to the Kara-Kum Desert studied the pastures adjoining the Karabil plateau which are not being utilized by kolkhozes. A map has been compiled of the plant growth and pastures of this area.

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The Botany and Plant Culture Institute has begun large-scale experiments to develop desert pastures. Three bases of the institute are planting grass seed and brushwood in sand.

In the livestock sovkhozes, work with thoroughbred cattle was conducted by an expedition from the Zoology and Zootechnical Institute.

IRRIGATION FURTHERED IN ISMAIL -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 260, 2 Nov 49

On 1 May 1949, kolkhoz workers of the agricultural artel imeni Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya, Suvorovskiy Rayon, completed the canal which carries water from the Danube estuary to the steppe area. The steppe, which in former times was scorched, was transformed during the summer into a fruitful plain. The first goal has already been reached. Irrigation of the fields has given the artel an income of 200,000 rubles. Pay per working day has increased sharply; kolkhoz workers now receive plenty of bread and vegetables.

The problem of irrigating the Izmail vicinity has already been solved by many of the agricultural artels. Water is now abundant in the fields of kolkhozes in Suvorovskiy and Kiliyskiy rayons and in the village of Sukholuzh'ye in Limanskiy Rayon. During 1949, 18 irrigation systems were constructed in the oblast. They provide water for 2,260 hectares of land and belong to 31 kolkhozes. In the spring, the irrigation network was expanded, and there are now 4,700 hectares of irrigated kolkhoz land.

This is only the beginning of the Stalin Five-Year Plan for the Izmail steppes. The plan provides for the irrigation of over 100,000 hectares of land in the southern areas of the oblast. Kotlabukh, Kitay, Yalpug, Kalug, and other lakes will be used for this purpose. In the central and northern regions, 15 powerful reservoirs will be erected. The first construction has already begun in the valley located in Saratskiy and Tuzlovskiy rayons.

Moreover, provisions have been made to utilize 22,000 hectares in the Danube River lowlands. So far, kolkhoz workers have made usable 12,000 hectares of land, containing countless deposits of organic silt fertilizer. In a dry year, this land produced 50 centners of corn, nearly 30 tons of potatoes, up to 40 tons of tomatoes, and up to 30 tons of eggplant per hectare.

Each year, there will be more and more usable land in the kolkhozes of Suvorovskiy, Kiliyskiy, Bolgradskiy, and Reniyskiy rayons. The government provides the kolkhozes with huge sums of money and first-class mechanics to aid irrigation and water conservation.

At present, corn, rice, cotton, sesame, peanuts, many vegetables, and melon crops are being cultivated successfully in Izmail. A vegetable-canning plant is to be built and, with its products, will supply not only Izmail Oblast, but also the large industrial areas of the republic. Special shops, now being set up in fish-canning plants, in 1950 will begin to produce various kinds of fish preserved in tomato sauce. -- V. Zagorskiy

NEW EQUIPMENT FOR MOISTURE PRESERVATION -- Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 270, 16 Nov 49

Kiev -- Vitaliy Makovskiy, a student of the Kiev Water Conservation Institute, has designed a sprinkler system as part of his graduate work. The sprinkler system, according to specialists, is considerably more economical and effective than other existing equipment of this type. Makovskiy has also designed a machine for digging canals. Both inventions have been sent to the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute for Government Testing.

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Other students are doing intensive scientific work of great practical significance. Along the Danube River, much work is being done to protect fields from sand brought in during spring floods and to preserve moisture. Under the leadership of Prof Boris Andreevich Pyshkin, doctor of technical sciences, one student, Antonina Gracheva, wrote a study on the subject, "Water Conservation in the Izmail Area by Means of Levees." The study has attracted the attention of manufacturers of the "Ukrovodproyekt" and "Ukrevodostroy" trusts. -- V. Shumov

PRODUCE MACHINERY FOR CLEANING IRRIGATION CANALS -- Pravda, No 331, 27 Nov 49

Ashkhabad -- The Trust for Mechanization of Irrigation Works is increasing its output of machines for removing silt from the main irrigation canals. This year, 11 excavating pumps have been built and the assembling of two additional machines is being completed.

At present, the removal of silt from the main irrigation canals in Chardzhou and Tashauz oblasts is done almost entirely by machinery. -- Turkmenskaya Iskra

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